

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY India

Document No.

DATE:

SUBJECT

Newspapers of Bengal

NO CHANGE in Class.

INFO. 30 November 1946

DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S

c DIST. 13 February 1947

DDA Memo. 4 Apr 77

PAGES 3

DDA REG. 77/1763

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

25X1A6a

Date: 26 APR 1978 By: oit

25X1X6

1. One of India's leading newspapers is the STATESMAN, the only 100 per cent British-owned English language daily in the country. It has a circulation of 80,000 and publishes a simultaneous edition at New Delhi. The editor is Mr. I. A. Stephens. The paper has always adopted an independent line of policy and while it may be said that it would favor a British cause, it would not do so if the cause were not a genuine one. The Indians read the STATESMAN for the play that it gives to foreign news.
2. The AMRITABAZAR PATRIKA is the oldest Indian-owned and managed English language daily in Calcutta and is the leader in its kind in East India. It claims a circulation of about 60,000 and has a publication in Allahabad. Its Bengali version is JUGANTHAR, a daily which is edited by Vivekananda Mookerji and has a circulation of about 40,000. AMRITABAZAR PATRIKA is edited by Tushar Kanti Ghosh who was recently appointed chairman of the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference. The paper is independently owned and is 100 per cent pro-Congress. In recent years its editorials, while high in quality and style, have tended to be ultra-Nationalist, one-sided and lacking in facts.
3. The HINDUSTAN STANDARD is Calcutta's third best daily. It is an English language paper with a circulation of about 40,000. The sole owner is Mr. S. C. Majumdar and the editor is Hem Chandra Nag. The ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA is its Indian counterpart. This is a Bengali daily which claims to have the largest circulation of any newspaper, English or Bengali, in the whole of East India. Its circulation is said to be near the 100,000 mark and it is considered the most influential Indian paper in Calcutta. Both these papers are completely pro-Congress and were responsible for building up Sarat Chandra Bose. It is reported that Bose has a proprietary interest in the papers. They play little foreign news and favor anything that is anti-Allied. The editor of the ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA is Chapalakantha Bhattacharjee.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 13 October 1964 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

WARNING NOTICE: THIS DISTRIBUTION LISTING MUST BE EXCISED BEFORE PUBLIC RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT.

25X1A9a

25X1A9a

CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

ADSO	K	A DEP.	K	FBT	SPDF	VTO				OCL	K
DADSO		FBK		FBV	SPDS	B DEP.				Ev.	
EXEC.		FEL		FBX	SPDT	CFGB					
CONTROL		FBM		FBZ G	3 SCO	CTRB					
PLANS	X	FBP		SPDA	TRB						

CONFIDENTIAL

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

-2-

4. The NATIONALIST is an Indian-owned and managed English language paper in Calcutta with a publication in Hoakhali and Patna. Its circulation is claimed to be about 10,000 but is actually 5,000. 90 per cent of its readers are Hindu and it is completely pro-Congress. The paper is third-rate, has a very shaky financial position and is very poorly staffed. The editor is Khagendra N. Sen. It is a Hindu Mahasabha paper.
5. The EASTERN EXPRESS is another English language daily but is a better paper than the NATIONALIST. It has a circulation of about 6,000 and a publication in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. The editor is P. R. Srinivas. It is pro-Congress and 100 per cent Indian. It is read by the South Indian Community. Its Bengali version is BHARAT which is edited by Probhat Singh. The circulation is about 15,000.
6. BASUMATI is a morning Bengali daily in Calcutta which is Indian-owned. It has a very large circulation. 80 per cent of its readers are Hindu and the other 20 per cent Muslims. It is pro-Congress and said to be leftist. The editor is Upendranath Banerji.
7. AZAD is another Indian-owned morning Bengali daily in Calcutta. It is second largest to the AMRITABAZAR PATRIKA and is read quite regularly by the Muslims in the city. Its editor is Abdul Kalam Shamsuddin and its policy pro-Muslim League. The circulation of the paper is said to be about 50,000.
8. The MORNING NEWS is an English language daily representing the Muslim point of view. It is independently owned by Ispahani who also owns the STAR OF INDIA which is the evening edition of the MORNING NEWS. Its circulation is about 12,000. A. E. Siddique is editor of the MORNING NEWS and Usman Ahmed Ansari is editor of the STAR OF INDIA.
9. The ADVANCE is a Calcutta English language daily which is third-rate and very strongly pro-Congress. Its editor is Hemendra Prashad Ghosh. MATUBHUMI is its Bengali version and VIS AMITHA its Hindi version. Surendranath Sinha and Pandit Matasewak Pathak are respectively the editors of these two papers.
10. SHWADINATHA is a Bengali Communist daily. Som Nath Lahire is the editor and it has a circulation of about 6,000. However, the circulation has also been reported at about 30,000. (Note: In India, the circulation figures are a trade secret.) Also, SHWADINATHA has been spelled SADINAUTA in previous reports. 6,000 is a more likely figure for the circulation.)
11. ASRE-JADID is an Urdu morning daily with a circulation of about 4,000. It is edited by Ibrahim Gosh and its policy is pro-Muslim League. ROZANA HIND is another Urdu morning daily in Calcutta which was Nationalist Muslim but is now independent. Its circulation is about 3,000 and it is edited by Abdul Razak Malihabadi. NAVJUG is a Bengali morning daily which is still Nationalist Muslim. The editor is Maulana Ahmed Ali.
12. The two Chinese (Kuomintang) papers in Calcutta are the CHINA PRESS, edited by S. F. Chee, and the CHINESE JOURNAL OF INDIA edited by Chao Ping-lang.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~CONTROL~~
 U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

25X1A2g

-3-

13. Among other Calcutta papers are KRISHAK, a Bengali daily with a Nationalist policy whose editor is Bijoylal Chatterji; LOKAMANYA, another Bengali daily with Nationalist and pro-Congress leanings edited by M. I. Chaturvedi; VISHWARANDHU, a morning Hindi daily edited by A. K. Sinha and having a Nationalist, pro-Congress policy.

~~CONFIDENTIAL
CONTROL
U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY~~